

**C35**

**Communication**

**Council – April 28, 2026**

**CW(2) – Report No. 20 Item No. 10**

## **10911 Jane Street Grange Hall Barn**

**Attention: Mayor Steven Del Duca & Members of Vaughan Council**

Linda Jackson Deputy Mayor, Local and Regional Councillor

Mario Ferri Local and Regional Councillor

Gino Rosati Local and Regional Councillor

Mario G. Racco Local and Regional Councillor

Marilyn Iafrate Ward 1 Councillor

Adriano Volpentesta Ward 2 Councillor

Rosanna DeFrancesca Ward 3 Councillor

Chris Ainsworth Ward 4 Councillor

Gila Martow Ward 5 Councillor

### **Abstract**

A formal submission opposing the proposed heritage designation of the former Grange Hall Barn at 10911 Jane Street.

April 2026

Joe Morriello



# 10911 Jane Street Grange Hall Barn

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# 10911 Jane Street Grange Hall Barn

**Mayor Steven Del Duca & Members of Vaughan Council**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

## **Opposition to Proposed Heritage Designation – Former Grange Hall Structure**

We respectfully oppose the proposed designation of the structure commonly referred to as the “Grange Hall,” located on the subject property.

While we acknowledge the broader historical context of Grange Halls as rural meeting places for agricultural communities across Southern Ontario, it is critical to evaluate this specific structure against the established criteria under the **Ontario Heritage Act**, particularly Ontario Regulation 9/06, which governs cultural heritage value or interest.

### **1. Lack of Physical Integrity and Authenticity**

The structure in question has experienced **severe and irreversible deterioration**, resulting in:

- Structural instability and unsafe conditions
- Significant loss of original materials and architectural features
- Inability to reasonably restore without substantial reconstruction

As a result, the building no longer retains sufficient **physical integrity** to convey its historical or architectural significance. Heritage designation is intended to preserve authentic cultural resources—not to reconstruct them after loss of integrity.

### **2. Limited Architectural and Contextual Significance**

Grange Halls were **common and utilitarian structures**, historically widespread throughout rural Ontario. This building:

- Does not exhibit unique or rare architectural characteristics
- Is not associated with a known architect or notable design innovation
- Lacks distinguishing features that elevate it above other similar structures

Its typology, while historically recognizable, is **not in itself sufficient to justify designation**, particularly in the absence of integrity.

# 10911 Jane Street Grange Hall Barn

### 3. Loss of Context and Functional Relevance

The original purpose of Grange Halls as agricultural community hubs has long since ceased. In this case:

- The surrounding agricultural and social context has changed significantly
- The building no longer contributes meaningfully to a coherent heritage landscape
- Its current condition detracts from, rather than contributes to, the character of the area

### 4. Incompatibility with Surrounding Development and Planning Context

The lands directly across the street are in the process of transitioning to **commercial development**, reflecting a broader shift in the area toward modern, intensively used land uses.

In this evolving context:

- The deteriorated structure is **visually incompatible** with planned and emerging development
- It risks becoming an **isolated and incongruous remnant**, rather than a meaningful heritage feature
- Its presence may undermine the cohesive planning vision for the corridor

Heritage designation should reinforce, not conflict with, sound land use planning and urban design objectives.

### 5. Safety, Setback, and Public Risk Concerns

The structure is located **in close proximity to the roadway**, and given its current condition, raises legitimate public safety concerns:

- Risk of structural failure impacting adjacent vehicular traffic
- Limited setback that does not meet modern safety expectations
- Potential hazards to pedestrians and motorists

Designation would restrict the ability to address or remove a structure that poses **ongoing and foreseeable risks to public safety**.

# 10911 Jane Street Grange Hall Barn

## 6. Safety and Liability Burden on the Property Owner

In addition to public risk, designation would:

- Impose an unreasonable financial burden for stabilization or restoration
- Require ongoing maintenance of a structurally compromised building
- Expose the property owner to continued liability

Municipal policy should not compel the preservation of **unsafe structures lacking demonstrable cultural value**.

## 7. Precedent and Policy Considerations

Designating structures in such advanced states of deterioration risks setting a precedent where:

- Any aged structure, regardless of condition, becomes eligible
- Property owners face uncertainty and disincentives to reinvest
- Municipal focus shifts away from preserving viable and significant heritage assets

## Conclusion

While the historical concept of Grange Halls holds general cultural interest, this specific structure:

- **Does not meet the threshold for designation under Ontario Regulation 9/06**
- **Has lost the integrity required to convey heritage value**
- **Is incompatible with the evolving planning context**
- **Presents clear and ongoing public safety risks**

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the proposed designation **not proceed**.

Thank you for your time. I respectfully ask that these comments be entered into the public record.

**Joe Morriello**  


# 10911 Jane Street Grange Hall Barn



Barn is leaning towards the east and there is a danger of collapse.

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Structural damages on the southeast side of the barn

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